This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (canceled).

2. (previously presented) The device as in claim 8, 10 or 11, characterized in that, over its length, the channel features varying cross-sectional dimensions or shapes.

3. (previously presented) The device as in claim 8, or 11, characterized in that a matching stub line serving for the tuning of the acoustic transmission properties between the coupling opening and the input extends into said channel and is itself bounded by the material of the shell member.

4. (previously presented) The device as in one of the claims 8, or 11, characterized in that, over at least a substantial segment of its length, the channel extends essentially parallel to the outer surface of the device.

5. (currently amended) The device as in one of the claims 8, or 11, characterized in that the device is a custom-molded~~moulded~~ hearing aid.

6. (currently amended) The device as in one of claims 8, or 11, characterized in that the device is a custom-molded~~moulded~~, in-the-ear hearing aid and that the channel is part of a venting system for the ear drum.

7. (previously presented) The device as in one of the claims 8, or 11, further comprising another channel, characterized in that at least certain segments of said

channels extend in parallel fashion.

8. (previously presented) A hearing device comprising an acoustical/electrical converter with an acoustical input being linked by means of a channel to a coupling opening arrangement exclusively at an outer surface of said device adapted to be exposed to ambient when an individual wears said hearing device, said device having a unitary shell member forming said outer surface and defining an inner space distinct from said channel, said channel being a part of said shell member formed by and embedded in the material of said shell member along a major portion of the length of said channel provided in and along said shell member with the major portion of said length following a contour of said outer surface.

9. (canceled).

10. (previously presented) A hearing device comprising:

a one-part shell member forming at least a portion of an outer surface and of an inner surface towards an inner space of said device, said shell member forming a channel out of the material of said shell member, said channel being formed in and along said shell member embedded in said shell member over at least a major portion of the length of said channel over said major portion following a contour of said outer surface; and

at least one of an acoustical/electrical converter and an electrical/acoustical converter including an acoustical input or output, respectively, wherein said input or output is acoustically linked to a coupling opening via said channel forming an acoustic path from said input or output to said coupling opening

at an outer surface of said device and adapted to be exposed to ambient or an ear canal of an individual wearing said hearing device but not both, and further wherein

said channel is tuned to have specific acoustical characteristics.

11. (previously presented) A hearing device comprising:

a one-part shell member forming at least a portion of an outer surface and of an inner surface towards an inner space of said device, said shell member forming a channel out of the material of said shell member, said channel being formed in and along said shell member embedded in said shell member over at least a major portion of the length of said channel, said major portion of said channel following a contour of said outer surface;

an electrical/acoustical converter including an acoustical output, wherein

an acoustic path is formed from said output to a coupling opening in said shell member and comprises said channel.

12. (previously presented) The hearing device of claim 11, wherein said acoustic path from said output to said coupling opening is exclusively at an outer surface of said device and is adapted to be exposed to an ear canal of an individual wearing said hearing device.

13. (previously presented) The hearing device of claim 11, wherein said acoustical output is linked to said channel directly, or via a conduit directly linked to said acoustical output and also directly linked to said channel.

14. (previously presented) The hearing device of claim 8, wherein an acoustic path is formed from said input to said coupling opening entirely in said shell member using said channel, whereby said output is acoustically linked to said coupling opening via said channel along at least some portion of said acoustic path.

15. (previously presented) The hearing device of claim 8, wherein said acoustical input is linked to said channel directly, or via a conduit directly linked to said input and directly linked to said channel.

Claims 16-20 (canceled).

21. (previously presented) The hearing device of claim 10, wherein said input or output is acoustically linked to the coupling opening via said channel by forming an acoustic path from said input or output to said coupling opening exclusively at an outer surface of said device.